

HEALING ARTS SCOTLAND

19 – 23 AUGUST 2024

A Scottish-wide celebration of the role of
the arts in health and wellbeing



EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT

PROJECT BRIEFING

Visit healingartsscotland.org to find out more

**SCOTTISH
BALLET**



**Jameel Arts
& Health Lab**



**World Health
Organization**

European Region

Event Overview

Healing Arts Scotland 2024 was a nation-wide festival celebrating and advocating for improved physical, mental and social health through the arts. Spearheaded by Scottish Ballet as part of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global 'Healing Arts' campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, the one-week activation was produced as part of the Edinburgh International Festival together with a national coalition of organisations and communities across Scotland. Partners from the UK and around the world collaborated across culture, science, health, education and government.

The aim of Healing Arts Scotland

The aim of Healing Arts Scotland (HAS) 2024 was to catalyse and strengthen a network of communities that can positively address current health concerns and inequalities across Scotland and the UK with a focus on five priority areas where the arts can have a measurable impact:

- ❑ Loneliness & isolation
- ❑ Mental health in younger people
- ❑ Dementia
- ❑ Creativity in confinement
- ❑ Social Prescribing

The evaluation of Healing Arts Scotland

University of Edinburgh completed an extensive evaluation of Healing Arts Scotland through forms, comment cards, interviews and focus groups.

- 88% of those surveyed believe arts can play a role in holistic care
- Key findings include the desire to explore how to scale an arts and health activity within one's own community
- 70% felt that improving lines of referral between healthcare services and arts and cultural assets was a key priority
- 86% of responders identified that increased funding to support arts and health in Scotland was a priority in moving forward in integrating a whole person approach to health

"Uplifting, catalysing, and activating. It is inspiring to see a convergence of a country with an activation in healing arts, and I also feel that many voices are being lifted and many perspectives are being lifted" Attendee in Edinburgh

Healing Arts Scotland Key Metrics



376

Events across
Scotland



11K+

Visitors to
events



2

Evaluation



156

National Relay
Workshops



341

Artists
Engaged



3.3M+

Media & Marketing
impressions



120+

Partners
Engaged



8

Government
Level Meetings



5

Universities
Engaged

Healing Arts Scotland Policy Impact

Arts and health featured in The Chief Medical Officer Sir Gregor Smith's new strategy titled Realistic Medicine.

After Healing Arts Scotland, a meeting was secured with Marie Todd, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, to identify further support and resource for social prescribing in Scotland. Resources have now been identified by the Scottish Government and a follow-up meeting with the Population Health team has been secured in early December to explore next steps.

Following Healing Arts Scotland, Public Health Scotland included the arts for the first time in their strategic approach to addressing significant health inequalities in targeted communities across Scotland.

Planning has begun for Healing Arts Scotland to take place every two years hosted as part of the Edinburgh International Festival with days in Glasgow, Aberdeen and the island communities.

Scottish Green Party delivered a Motion to the Scottish Parliament on 6 September acknowledging Healing Arts Scotland.

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Neil Gray, referenced the impact of Healing Arts Scotland in his speech at the Alliance Awards at the Scottish Parliament.

Healing Arts Scotland team is advising city leaders in Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States on their approach to establishing Healing Arts weeks and developing impactful arts and health activities.

King Charles III physician directed the Let's Dance UK campaign Founder Angela Rippon to the HAS team to hear more about the work that took place across the week. HAS partners will now support this national dance health programme and significant associated research taking place in 28 care homes across the UK in 2025.